

effective. Having the plain commandment and necessary equipment no one can be thoroughly true to God that aims at anything less than a compliance with the will, or purpose of God, as expressed in the gift of His only begotten Son. This applies to every true Christian in general, and to religious organizations in particular, especially to the great convocations or conferences held from time to time.

Any conference that convenes with a purpose other than the universal evangelization of the world does not meet in the one purpose of God, and any child of God that attends any such conference with an aim lower than that, fails to meet the requirements of God.

I was deeply and sadly impressed at our Conference of '98 with the utter indifference to the great purpose of God; there appeared to be considerable sentiment in favor of general and foreign missions, and yet when the time came to crystalize sentiment into results there was an utter failure. It was a well understood fact that the Lord's day afternoon session should be the grand missionary rally, and before the time came to receive either offerings or pledges there were probably not one hundred people in the auditorium, which an hour previous was nearly filled with an audience of at least one thousand people. Readers of the EVANGELIST have read of some good things about that conference but they have never yet heard anything of the result of the missionary rally. To be brief, what was the object of the convention of 1898, and what is to be the object of the next one? Did we simply come together to have a hand shake, to make our reports and deliver our addresses, gratify our natural longings of rest and recreation, without aiming to accomplish anything definite for God? I would not judge harshly, and yet the utter indifference to actual, substantial work forces such thoughts upon my mind. Will we repeat the same performance in 1899? I hope not. The next Conference is arranged to close on the Lord's day and no doubt the afternoon session will again be set apart for a missionary rally and it is to be hoped it will be a rally with "rattle." There is much said about the missionary interest that has been aroused among us, but the interest without cash will not count for much but disappointment. Paul said, "How shall they preach unless they are sent" and the echo of eighteen hundred years still repeats that question.

When once there is real "oneness of purpose and that one purpose the purpose of God" we will all keep our seats at our missionary rallies (even tho the weather is hot) and make our presence felt by something more practical than talk and sentiment.

I trust that a spirit of deep conviction may come upon all of us during the coming months so that when we again assemble in conference it shall be for heart and soul and pocket consecration, that our dilatoriness may cease to be a spectacle before the world and dishonor to God.

#### Aggressive Christianity

"Religion," says Stalker, "should be to every man: Not merely a creed, but an experience; not a restraint, but an inspiration; not an insurance for the next world, but a program for the present world."

In line with that thought Max Muller says: "Christianity is in its nature a missionary religion, converting, aggressive, advancing, encompassing the world."

David Brainerd, the saintly missionary, declared: "I cared not where or how I lived, or what hardships I went through so that I could but gain souls for Christ. While I was asleep I dreamed of these things, and when awake the first thing I thought of was the great work. All my desire was for their conversion and all my hope was in God." All of which is evidence of entire consecration to God.

Zinendorf said to a Moravian brother at Hernhut, "Can you go as a missionary to Greenland?" "Yes." "Can you go to-morrow?" "If the cobbler has finished my shoes I will go to-morrow." That was a quick response. It came from one who belonged to the Lord and acknowledged the proprietorship. Are we needed at home where there are a hundred applicants for every position more than in the mission fields where the laborers are few? About a half a century since a young man went to the missionary rooms in Boston and said, "If there is any place on the missionary field especially difficult and solitary where no one else will go, send me to that place." He was sent to one of the loneliest islands of Micronesia where he labored till a few years since, when he wrote, "All God's plans are fragrant with blessings." Wesley said, "If I had three hundred men who feared nothing but God, hated nothing but sin, and were determined to know nothing save Jesus Christ and him crucified, I would set the world on fire." It is fire that we need, burning hearts. "Send us men," said a heathen convert, "with hot hearts." The baptism of the Holy Ghost and of fire qualifies us for missionary service at home or in foreign lands.

### Church News

#### Sergeantsville, N. J.

This 27th of Nov. 1898, being "snowed in," yes actually, literally, we shall improve a part of our time by writing a few lines from our new field of labor to fulfil a promise made to our parishoners in and around Morrison's Cove, a place that is endeared to me by a thousand memories. And there may be others even outside the field referred to, who are waiting for a few lines. We arrived on our new field of labor safe and sound as could be expected, having chartered a car for household goods, horse, etc., and your scribe came by fast freight, and received the full benefit of the accommodations therein specified. Family was met at Broad street station, Philadelphia, by Brethren Cassel, Bowman, and sister Effie Brumbaugh, of New Enterprise, Pa., who at that time was

stopping in the Quaker City. Here they were kindly cared for over night, and sent on their way next morning by Brother Cassel, who has a reputation for his kindness. The following is clipped from our county paper, and will explain our introduction to our new charge, and the opinion of some one outside of the brotherhood:

The progressive minister, Rev. Smith, arrived and was welcomed with a reception by his congregation on Friday. The service Sunday morning was well attended and his sermon made a good impression. Services hereafter will be held every Sunday morning at 10:30.

We like the place and people, have plenty to do at present, and "more to follow." There are few who realize the magnitude of our work here, as well as the individual or personal responsibility of a pastor on this new charge environed as we, the Brethren, are here, and right here we solicit the united prayers of the brotherhood.

The Brethren church of N. J., is composed of good, earnest, willing-to-work set of people, and we think they have come to stay. As some have interrogated us as to the reason for our seemingly sudden move from the Cove, I want to say that I have no better reason than this: I think it was the Lord's doings. For to tear loose from those dear people to respond to the Macedonian call from N. J., was no small matter on our part. May the Lord bless and prosper his Zion in Blair and Bedford Co. Others have spoken of our mission work here in the last year for which we acknowledge \$6 50 from Fredericksburg, and some \$5 00 from New Enterprise in return for which we left the church some \$1300.00 better off financially than it was Jan. 1, 1897.

E. H. SMITH.

#### Ankenytown, Ohio

It has been some time since the readers of the EVANGELIST heard from the church at Ankenytown thro the paper owing to the fact that there was little of interest to report. Our pastor J. L. Kimmel, commenced a protracted effort at this place on Sunday, Oct. 9, under rather embarrassing surroundings. Discouragements from professors and non-professors seemed to meet him all along the lines of the enemy's forts. Cries, no use, no use, can't do anything; won't get one convert, was their unanimous cry. But he being conscious of the fact that the Lord has called him to labor in his vineyard, that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation in spite of all the demons in the under world.

His first effort was to get the church machinery in good running order, cleansed and anointed with the Holy Spirit and fire of love. He preached seven discourses from the seven epistles written to the seven churches in Asia; making appropriate applications, and very forcible and impressive appeals to the members of the church to arouse them from the cold formal prayerless condition, thus urging the necessity, yea, the in-